ANNUAL FORM No. 62.

Forest Department, Sind Circle.

Financial results of the year 1889-90.

Division.	Timber and other produce removed from the Forests by Government Agency.		Other revenue.		Formation, protection and improvement of Forests.	Total.		Remarks.
	Receipts.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Sukkur	2,02,213	1,49,215	60,097	12,701	16,000	2,62,310	1,77,916	
Naushahro	88,066	64,337	31,683	6,559	8,040	1,19,749	78,936	
Hyderabad	1,21,996	75,477	40,448	7,553	9,547	1,62,444	92,577	
Jerruck	58,591	45,468	23,667	6,150	8,411	82,258	60,029	
Total... ...	4,70,866	3,34,497	1,55,895	32,963	41,998	6,26,761	4,09,458	

Conservator's Office,
Hyderabad, 10th September 1890.

W. S. HEXTON,
Acting Conservator of Forests, Sind Circle.

Statement showing the progress of Forest Demarcation and Settlement Works in the Sind Circle for 1889-90.

Class of Forest.	At the commencement of the year. Area under Section 34 in which private rights have not been enquired into, settled and recorded.	Area settled during the year under		Area of reserved Forests alienated under Section 26.	Area of protected Forests disforested under Government orders.	At the end of the year. Areas under Section 34 in which private rights have not been enquired into, settled and recorded.
		Chapter II of the Act.	Chapter IV of the Act.			
	Square miles.	Square miles.	Square miles.	Square miles.	Square miles.	Square miles.
Reserved Forests						
Protected Forests						

Conservator's Office,
Hyderabad, 10th September 1890.

W. S. HEXTON,
Acting Conservator of Forests, Sind Circle.

No. 3385 of 1890.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,
Karachi, 29th September 1890.

Submitted to Government.

2. The area under reserved forests in Sind at the close of the year was 991 square miles, 324 acres, as compared with 963 square miles, 201 acres, in the previous year. The increase of 28 square miles, 123 acres, is due partly to the establishment of new reserves, and partly to the gain which resulted from the action of the river on the forests on its banks. Mr. Hexton expresses the opinion that during the last twenty years the loss caused by the action of the river has far exceeded the gain, but this opinion is not borne out by the figures given in the reports of the Department for previous years.

3. A moment's consideration will show that the theory advanced by the Forest Officers that when the river has been notified as one of the boundaries of a river-side forest, the flowing stream of the river must under all circumstances be the boundary, is impracticable. It would often result in hundreds of acres of occupied land and whole villages being thrown into reserved forests by a sudden change in the course of the stream, and it is evident that the functions usually discharged by a Forest Demarcation Officer cannot safely be delegated to so capricious a river as the Indus. If the principles laid down in the instructions lately issued by the Commissioner, for the decision of claims to alluvial accretions made by the Forest Department are adhered to, and the rules are worked with judgment and discretion, there will be no further cause for complaint on either side.

4. The remark made in paras. 7 and 8 of the report regarding the necessity for the acquisition of new reserves near the river bank should be read in conjunction with the observations contained in para. 31 on the subject of the deterioration of the reserves recently acquired at a distance from the river. From facts which have recently been brought to his notice, the Commissioner has no doubt that a most unfortunate mistake has been made in selecting for permanent reserves, land on which there was, at the time, a good growth of jungle, owing its existence to the flood-water from the Indus, which formerly flowed over the face of the country. But since the exclusion of the floods, these lands have been deprived of their water-supply and when once the original growth has been removed, they become useless for forest purposes, since reproduction is impossible. The Commissioner considers that the Conservator should now be instructed to take measures for the disforestment of the useless reserves, and to select in compensation tracts on which the growth of permanent jungle is possible.

5. Steps will be taken for the preservation of the lands selected in the Thar and Parkar District, alluded to in para. 9 of the report, as soon as the construction of the Hyderabad-Umarkot Railway has been sanctioned.

6. The remarks made by Mr. Hexton in para. 15 regarding the insufficiency of the present establishment have the full concurrence of the Commissioner. One Assistant Conservator was withdrawn from Sind on the recommendation of the Conservator, but a very short experience was sufficient to show that the step was ill-advised, and in January last Colonel McRae asked that his proposal might be reconsidered. But in Government Resolution No. 1717, of the 4th March 1890, Government stated that another officer of the controlling staff could not then be spared for service in the

Sind Circle. The Commissioner trusts, however, that at least one other officer will be deputed to Sind at the earliest opportunity. It is most undesirable that Mr. Tuljaram Nihalchand, an officer who is declared by the Conservator to be unfit for the post, should be allowed to continue to hold charge of a division.

7. The number of Forest offences dealt with by the Magistrates fell from 105 to 98, while the number of convictions increased from 92 to 97. There was a noteworthy decrease in the number of petty offences dealt with departmentally, which in the previous year reached a total of 5,809, as compared with 4,383 in the year under report. The decrease is under the heads of "Illicit grazing" and "Compensation cases," and may be attributed to the circumstance that owing to the high inundation there was good grazing throughout the country, and therefore less temptation to trespass in the reserved forests.

8. It is satisfactory to note that the number of forest fires was only 59 as against 94 in the previous year, and while 7,275 acres were burnt in 1888-89, the area affected in 1889-90 was only 1,703 acres. Almost all the fires occurred, as usual, in the Sukkur Division.

9. The improvement in the sales at the Sukkur depôt is mainly due to the reduction in the rates sanctioned by Government Resolution No. 3490, of the 11th May 1889. From information furnished by the Conservator to the Commissioner, it appeared that, should the competition of foreign timber require it, still further reductions might be made while preserving a fair margin of profit. The reduced rates have therefore been continued.

10. The most noteworthy feature of the working of the Department during the year is the very large increase in the quantity of fuel supplied to the North-Western Railway, under the agreement the terms of which were stated in para. 11 of the Commissioner's review of the report for 1888-89. The amount of fuel taken was 18,16,614 maunds, as against 3,72,476 maunds in the previous year. On the other hand the amount of fuel supplied to other public departments fell from 3,12,348 maunds to 2,01,910 maunds, the decrease being mainly due to less fuel having been taken for ferry steamers, but no explanation has been given in the report of the falling off in the demand under this head.

11. The financial results of the year as compared with those of 1888-89 are shown in the following table :—

		1888-89.	1889-90.	Increase.
Receipts	Rs.	4,15,867	6,26,762	2,10,895
Expenditure.....	„	2,86,111	4,09,459	1,23,348
Net Revenue ...	„	1,29,756	2,17,303	87,547

Thus there has been an increase of Rs. 2,10,895 in the gross, and of Rs. 87,547 in the net revenue. The increase in the receipts is almost entirely due to the increase in the demand for locomotive fuel, which has also caused an increase in the expenditure, on account of the cost of cutting and removing the wood. Establishment charges have been reduced by Rs. 2,191, but the Commissioner agrees with the Conservator that the strength of the controlling establishment is at present dangerously low and that reduction in this direction is false economy. The net revenue is the largest ever derived from the Sind forests.

12. The work of the Department was carried on by Colonel McRae with his usual ability, and the excellent arrangements made to meet the sudden increase in the demand for fuel for the North-Western Railway were creditable to all the officers of the Department.

A. C. TREVOR,
Acting Commissioner in Sind.

No. 1899.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 13th March 1891.

Letter from the Conservator of Forests, Sind Circle, No. 846, dated 10th September 1890—Forwarding the Forest Administration Report of the Sind Circle for the year 1889-90, with its subsidiary statements.

Memorandum from the Commissioner in Sind, No. 3385, dated 29th September 1890—Submitting the above with his remarks.

Letter from the Conservator of Forests, S. C., No. 3100 A., dated 18th October 1890—Submitting the Forest Administration Report of the Southern Circle for the year 1889-90, with its subsidiary statements.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, S. D., No. 4477, dated 19th November 1890—Submitting the above with his remarks.

Letter from the Conservator of Forests, N. C., No. 3886, dated 31st October 1890—Submitting the Forest Administration Report of the Northern Circle for the year 1889-90, with its subsidiary statements.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 5287, dated 19th December 1890.
Letter from the Commissioner, C. D., No. $\frac{R}{5855}$, dated 23rd December 1890.
} Submitting their remarks on the Forest Administration Report of the Northern Circle.

RESOLUTION.—The changes that have occurred in forest area during the year 1889-90 are shown in the following statement:—

Circle.	Area on 1st April 1889.		Added.		Excluded.		Area on 31st March 1890.		Total.
	Reserved.	Protected.	Reserved.	Protected.	Reserved.	Protected.	Reserved.	Protected.	
	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.
Northern Circle	7,446 145/640	1,047 123/640	218 284/640	35 417/640	135 279/640	11 93/640	7,529 150/640	1,071 447/640	8,600 597/640
Southern Circle	1,819 11/320	3,411 4/5	19/80	..	7/12,800	49/320	1,819 175/640	3,411 413/640	5,230 588/640
Sind Circle	*963 201/640	1 1/5	40 316/640	117/640	12 193/640	..	991 324/640	1 245/640	992 569/640
Total ..	10,228 23/40	4,460 123/640	259 7/40	35 534/640	147 472/640	11 191/640	10,340 9/640	4,484 93/128	14,824 474/640

* The figure given in the last year's report is 973 $\frac{538}{640}$ square miles.

The changes in the Southern Circle call for no remark. The increase in area in the Northern Circle is mainly due, as explained in the report, to corrections of book entries of areas in Thána, Násik and Sátára. The real increase in area has been 42 $\frac{539}{640}$ square miles in the case of reserved forest, while there has been no real increase in the area of protected forest. In the Sind Circle the area of reserved forest added during the year amounts to about 28 square miles, part of this increase being due to formation of new reserves and part to gain from the action of the river. The area of protected forest remained practically the same.

2. Government concurs with the remark of the Commissioner in Sind that the theory of the Forest officers regarding alluvial accretions is impracticable. The instructions which are said to have been lately issued for the decisions of claims of this nature by the Forest Department should however be submitted to Government, and the Commissioner should also be requested to state whether he can arrange for a revision of the forest survey as suggested by the Conservator to ascertain the actual effects on forest area of the action of the Indus since the former survey was made in 1868. Government also concurs with the Commissioner in thinking that steps should be taken as soon as possible to disforest the useless reserves referred to in paragraph 32 of the Conservator's report and to select new reserves from area available on the river.

3. The progress made in the settlement of land notified under Section 34 of the Forest Act is shown in the following table :—

Circle.	Class of Forests.	At the commencement of the year areas under Section 34 in which private rights have not been enquired into, settled, or recorded.	Areas settled during the year.		Area of Reserved Forests alienated under Section 26.	Area of Protected Forests disforested under Government orders.	At the end of the year areas under Section 34 in which private rights have not been inquired into, settled or recorded.	Remarks.
			Under Chapter II of the Forest Act.	Under Chapter IV of the Forest Act.				
		Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	
Northern Circle.	Reserved.	1,352	403	...	5	...	860*	* 84 square miles of reserved forest in Násik were erroneously entered by the Divisional Forest Officer, Násik, in his last year's report and are therefore omitted this year.
	Protected.	620	53	...	...	...	567	
Southern Circle.	Reserved.	$509\frac{221}{640}$†	...	...	...	...	$509\frac{221}{640}$	†. The area as given in the report of the last year is $530\frac{94\frac{11}{40}}{640}$ square miles.
	Protected.	$2,635\frac{171}{640}$	$56\frac{453}{640}$	$81\frac{320}{640}$	...	$\frac{88}{640}$	$2,496\frac{128}{640}$	
Sind ...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	
Total ...	Reserved.	$1,861\frac{221}{640}$	403	...	5	...	$1,369\frac{221}{640}$	
	Protected.	$3,255\frac{171}{640}$	$109\frac{453}{640}$	$81\frac{320}{640}$	...	$\frac{88}{640}$	$3,063\frac{128}{640}$	

4. The work of settlement which proceeds *pari passu* with that of selection of lands for notification under Sections 4 and 28 of the Act has shown satisfactory progress in the Northern Circle. The reports for the Váda and Máhim Tálukás of the Thána District said to have been completed by Mr. Owen should be expedited. In the Southern Circle, on the other hand, and especially in Kánara, much still remains to be done. The Conservator's proposal for expediting the work by assigning the selection and settlement to the Divisional Forest Officers and Assistant Collectors, respectively, instead of to a special Demarcation Officer, has already been negatived after full consideration in Government Resolution No. 8151 of the 18th November 1890. Having regard, however, to the heavy arrears of settlement and demarcation work in Kánara and the time that it will take to complete it, if left to a single Demarcation Officer, Government, as already stated, hopes to be able to spare the services of an Assistant Collector shortly to relieve Mr. Wingate of a portion of his present duties.

With reference to Mr. James's remarks on Chapter I, paragraphs 18 to 25, of Mr. Shuttleworth's report, it may be observed that the figures of area for Thána to which he alludes represent only the area notified under Sections 4 and 28 of the Act and do not include the unsettled area notified in 1879 under Section 34.

5. The reduction in the cost per mile of the forest survey in the Southern Circle is satisfactory, while the increased cost in the Northern Circle is said to be due to the inclusion in the accounts of the year under report of certain charges in arrears from the preceding year. From the table appended to paragraph 52 of Mr. Shuttleworth's report it appears that the average cost of the 16″ survey was only Rs. 71, while that of the 8″ and 4″ was respectively Rs. 188 and Rs. 133. Mr. Shuttleworth should be asked to state if the figures showing the cost of the 16″ survey are correct. Government is fully aware of the advantages of the 8″ maps where working plans are required, and has already sanctioned their preparation wherever shown to be necessary.

6. The progress made in the preparation of working plans in Kánara is disappointing and should be specially inquired into by the Conservator. The question of constructing a tramway between Haliyál and Shiroli is under the consideration of Government and will receive early attention.

7. In paragraphs 57 to 70 Mr. Shuttleworth gives an interesting account of the system of working plans arranged for the Thána District. That there has been mismanagement in past years owing to irregular exploitation of particular tracts and inadequate measures for securing reproduction may be safely admitted. But the evidence as to overworking and depletion in the sense that more has been taken from the forests than the annual legitimate yield cannot, in the absence of all record as to the actual volume removed under cover of

privileges for local supply, be accepted as conclusive. Had the depletion in past years been anything like so serious as Mr. Shuttleworth describes it to have been in paragraph 59, the Thána forests would not now be the "mine of wealth" he elsewhere declares them to be, and the revenue derived from them would not now be expanding, as he justly claims it to be, "by leaps and bounds." The satisfactory results now being obtained under systematic working seem to His Excellency the Governor in Council to show not so much that the Thána forests have been overworked in the past, as that they are now for the first time only beginning to be worked up to their full capabilities.

8. Government agrees with Mr. Shuttleworth in thinking that the local circumstances of the Konkan make it necessary that the unit of working area should be comparatively small, and that the annual fellings should be numerous and widely distributed. The importance of decentralizing forest labour is obvious in a tract where the local demand for forest produce for domestic and agricultural purposes is exceptionally large, and where so large a proportion of the population depends mainly for its subsistence on the wages earned by felling, carrying and distributing such produce. Forest blocks as well as compartments must also, as Mr. Shuttleworth observes in paragraph 112, be of small size, so that the open portions of forest available for grazing may be within convenient distance of the different forest villages. The success of the system now under trial for supplying cultivators with loppings for ash manure from the annual coupes also clearly depends as much on the number and situation of the coupes as on the actual quantity of such material made available. Government, as will be seen from paragraph 13 of Government Resolution No. 650 of the 26th January 1891, concurs with Mr. James's remarks on paragraph 147 of Mr. Shuttleworth's report as to the necessity of cutting compartments when due, and expects that the Revenue officers will in future cordially co-operate in inducing the cultivators to utilize the ráb material obtainable from the fellings to the fullest possible extent consistent with the due protection of the coupes. The conservation of the young growth in the coupes is a matter of serious importance, and the measures adopted to secure the object in view should, as suggested by Mr. James, be specially noted in future reports.

9. The alleged insufficiency of the present controlling establishment in Sind is a matter for which the Conservator himself is mainly responsible. Government will, however, in view of the Commissioner's recommendation, take steps as soon as possible to place the services of another Assistant at the Conservator's disposal.

10. The following table shows the number of prosecutions for forest offences in 1889-90 as compared with the preceding year :—

Circle.	1888-89.		1889-90.		Percentage of failures.	
	Prosecutions.	Acquittals.	Prosecutions.	Acquittals.	1888-89.	1889-90.
Northern Circle ...	1,031	255	1,441	253	24·7	17·6
Southern Circle ...	129	31	138	37	24·	26·8
Sind Circle	105	42	98	31	40·	31·6
Total ...	1,265	328	1,677	321	25·92	19·14

There has been a satisfactory increase in the percentage of convictions for forest offences to cases tried in some districts, especially Thána and Khándesh in the Northern Circle, indicating greater care in instituting prosecutions. On the other hand, in Sátára in the Northern Circle and in the Southern Division of Kánara and Dhárwár in the Southern Circle the percentage of failures appears unduly high.

11. The large number of cases compounded in the Northern Circle, *viz.*, 6,485 in all, is satisfactory so far as it shows that a spirit of conciliation has actuated Forest officers in dealing with forest offenders. But the operation of

Section 67 of the Forest Act requires to be carefully watched, and any tendency to have recourse to this mode of settlement in doubtful cases where the evidence would be insufficient to secure convictions before Magistrates must be promptly repressed. "Reasonable suspicion" of the commission of a forest offence is essential in every case compounded under Section 67. The following table shows the number of cases compounded under Section 67 of the Forest Act and the amounts paid as compensation in 1888-89 and 1889-90 :—

Circle.	1888-89.		1889-90.	
	Cases.	Amount.	Cases.	Amount.
		Rs.		Rs.
Northern Circle	6,154	11,272	6,485	17,075
Southern Circle	599	2,271	674	2,794
Sind Circle	1,493	4,316	1,315	3,068
Total ...	8,246	17,859	8,474	22,937

The Commissioners should be requested to make a close investigation of the method and proceedings of the Forest officers empowered under Section 67 of the Forest Act, and to report the result to Government. Among other points, they should examine the following :—

1. By what officers is the actual inquiry made and recorded in these cases, and what is the exact nature of the procedure adopted ?

2. Are witnesses and accused brought in person before the officers empowered to adjudicate under Section 67, is the evidence of witnesses taken in presence of the accused, and are statements of witnesses and accused reduced to writing ?

3. By whom are fines awarded actually collected ? Is money ever collected from accused by forest subordinates before orders for their collection have been passed by officers empowered under Section 67 ?

4. What is the nature of the supervision exercised over the proceedings of Forest officers under Section 67 ? To what officers do appeals against their decisions lie ? Are monthly returns of cases disposed of submitted by the empowered officers ? If they are, in what form are they submitted and by whom are they scrutinized ?

In future administration reports the Conservators should report for each district the number of complaints disposed of under Section 67 of the Forest Act as well as the number of cases in which fines have been inflicted, also the number of appeals, if any, against decisions passed under Section 67 and the manner of their disposal. The reports should also show how many fines were inflicted amounting to one rupee, how many to two rupees, how many to three, and so on up to the maximum.

12. The number of cattle impounded in the Northern Circle, though slightly less than in the preceding year, reached the high figure of 197,366 and would seemingly have been much larger but for the comparative scarcity of pounds in North Thána. The number of cattle impounded in Ahmednagar and Poona is specially noticeable and is greatly to be regretted. It is hoped, however, that when the restrictions imposed by the new grazing rules are more fully understood and accepted, and the boundaries of closed areas are better known to those concerned, cases of cattle trespass will show a marked diminution.

13. When the open portions of a forest block are at an inconvenient distance from any village and the closed areas are conveniently near, there will always of course be a temptation to drive cattle into the latter. Wilful trespass of this kind must be prevented by all possible means. If the present pound fines are found not sufficiently high to be deterrent the question of raising them under the provisions of Section 70 of the Forest Act will be considered. But in any case the temptation should be removed as far as

possible by taking measures as early as possible in each season to clear away all grass from the closed coupes either by permitting the cultivators to remove it, under proper supervision, for ráb and fodder, or through the agency of contractors. This measure is also very necessary in connection with fire protection. Government is not able to agree entirely with Mr. Shuttleworth's views as regards cattle trespass as stated in paragraph 95. If the present grazing fees are, as Mr. Shuttleworth contends, "ridiculously low," there can obviously be little or no motive for unauthorized grazing in *open* forest areas. The number of cattle impounded for grazing without passes in open forest is not separately shown in the Administration Report. It is presumed, however, that such cases do occur. In future years full information on this subject should be given.

14. Fire protection in the Southern Circle, notwithstanding the comparatively large expenditure of Rs. 11,358, does not appear to have been very successful, and it is an unsatisfactory feature of the report that the conclusions drawn by the Conservator as to the success of the measures adopted in the different divisions are directly at variance with the returns furnished by the Divisional Officers. In North Kánara, for instance, where the protection is said by Mr. MacGregor to have been extremely good, the percentage of failures to area attempted is, according to the returns, considerably higher than in any other division in the Southern Circle. The inference to be drawn from the remark in paragraph 43 of Mr. MacGregor's report is that the subordinate officers from fear of blame or punishment for failure purposely furnish false returns showing more satisfactory results than are in reality obtained. This is a matter to which the Conservator should give close attention. In the Northern Circle the results of fire conservancy show a slight improvement as compared with the past year. This improvement, however, was accompanied by increased expenditure. As regards Sind the Conservator has given no information as to area attempted to be protected, but it is satisfactory to learn that the number of forest fires and the area burnt were considerably less than in the preceding year.

15. The area open for free grazing in North Thána has not been shown in the statement in paragraph 107 of Mr. Shuttleworth's report. This omission should be supplied. It is clear from the same statement, as Mr. James has pointed out, that the kurans of South Thána of which the grazing sold by auction realized only on the average 3 annas and 8 pies per acre are really not 'valuable' kurans within the meaning of paragraph 1 of Government Resolution No. 7467 of 15th September 1885. Nor, judging from the average per acre realized by the auctions, can the kurans of the other divisions in the circle—excepting perhaps North Thána—be considered sufficiently valuable to justify their being excepted from the rule directing the discontinuance of annual auctions. It is desirable that the question should be settled and Government approve of Mr. James's suggestion that the Collectors and Divisional Forest Officers should in consultation before the next grazing season fix the particular kurans which owing to the exceptional value of their fodder grass should continue to be sold by auction. It is very important also, as Mr. James observes, that the people should have full information as to the areas which are available for fee and free grazing. This object will, it is expected, be fully secured by the orders recently passed in Government Resolution No. 650 of the 26th January last.

16. Natural reproduction both by self-sown seed and coppice shoots appears to have been good in all the circles except in the case of some of the Sind reserves referred to above in paragraph 3, which do not now benefit from the inundation. Speaking generally, natural reproduction may be safely relied on for the preservation of the forests in tracts where the rainfall is sufficient, provided adequate measures are taken for protection from fire and for closure of recently felled compartments. The measures taken for artificial regeneration had, as usual, varying results, but appear to have been satisfactory on the whole.

17. Good progress has been made during the year in the construction of several Provincial roads in the Northern Circle which will greatly facilitate the transport and removal of timber. Much remains to be done before the full yield of the valuable forests of the Southern Circle can be profitably exploited. The opening of a new station at Devrái has, however, given a slight impetus to the

operations for supplying railway fuel. Government note with satisfaction that Mr. MacGregor has taken steps to prevent unfair working in future of the forest for railway fuel by exploiting tracts closer to the line than the average lead for the whole area.

18. Receipts from departmental fellings of timber show a considerable decrease in the Northern Circle owing chiefly to the abolition and restriction of these fellings in Thána in favour of sale of standing timber to contractors. The latter system, both for the supply of timber and firewood, is working very satisfactorily and appears on the whole to be more convenient to the people of the district than departmental distribution, as they get their supplies on credit or by barter instead of having to pay in cash. The wide distribution of the coupes and the increased quantity now thrown on the market ensure a brisk local trade and moderate prices. Care must be taken, however, as observed in paragraph 13 of Government Resolution No. 650 of 26th January 1891, that no compartments which ought to be felled in any year remain unfelled, and departmental operations must still be undertaken in respect of coupes which remain unsold to contractors.

19. The large increase in the quantity of fuel supplied to the North-Western Railway is, as the Commissioner remarks, the chief feature in the working of the Sind Circle during the year. The decrease in the demand by other public departments should, however, have been explained.

20. The number and value of the free grants of wood made in the Southern Circle has not been reported as it should have been. This omission should be supplied. In the other circles the value of wood so given shows a considerable decline as compared with the past year, but no explanation is given of the cause.

21. The receipts, expenditure and net revenue of the three forest circles during 1889-90 as compared with the preceding year are shown in the following statement :—

Circle.	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Net Revenue.	
	1888-89.	1889-90.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1888-89.	1889-90.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Northern Circle ...	11,60,769	11,85,540	7,27,412	7,05,357	4,33,357	4,80,183
Southern Circle ...	12,73,554	13,25,676	6,75,601	6,50,343	5,97,953	6,75,333
Sind Circle ...	4,15,867	6,26,762	2,86,111	4,09,459	1,29,756	2,17,303
Total ...	28,50,190	31,37,978	16,89,124	17,65,159	11,61,066	13,72,819

22. The financial results of the year are very satisfactory, showing a substantial increase in the net revenue of each circle and a total increase of over 2 lákhs.

23. In paragraph 130 of his report Mr. MacGregor has stated that the pepper and spice gardens of Kánara are being largely extended, and fears that, sooner or later, great pressure will be brought to bear on Government to allot fresh *betta* lands from the 'remnants' of the forests not already given up. Government will be glad to have more definite information as to this alleged extension of garden cultivation, and the Commissioner, S. D., should be requested to make special inquiries on the subject. The spread of such exceptionally high cultivation within due limits as provided for in paragraph 5 of Government Resolution No. 5652 of 13th August 1890 would not be a matter for regret, and considering that upwards of 90 per cent. of the entire area of the Kánara District is now included in forests, there ought to be little difficulty in providing, should it become necessary, for a considerably larger demand for ráb than now exists in connection with these gardens. The extension of garden cultivation simply

means that for every additional acre of garden a few acres less of forests will be worked for high timber than would otherwise be the case. But the material wealth of the district will certainly not suffer by the change.

24. For the generally successful result of the year's administration, great credit is due to the Conservators and those working under them. Mr. Shuttleworth has in particular fully maintained his well-earned reputation for untiring zeal and industry in overcoming difficulties and securing improved efficiency throughout his circle. The same spirit has actuated the Divisional Forest Officers generally, and deserves cordial recognition. Messrs. Gleadow and Millett and other officers equally conspicuous for their loyal devotion to forestry will do well, however, to accept the valuable advice contained in the concluding paragraph of the Commissioner, N. D.'s review in the spirit in which it has been given.

G. W. VIDAL,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner in Sind, and the Commissioners of Divisions,
The Conservators of Forests, N., S. and Sind Circles,
All Collectors, including the Collectors and Deputy Commissioners in Sind,
The Survey and Settlement Commissioner,
The Director of Land Records and Agriculture,
The Accountant General.
} With copies of the report.

The Editors' Tables.
The Government of India,
The Secretary of State for India.
} By letter.

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